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DATE: June 1, 2005
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TO: Examiner Ronald Laneau
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FROM: Gero G. McClellan
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ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW? YES NO

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED APRIL 21, 2005

U.S. SERIAL NO.: 09/848,572
FILING DATE: May 3, 2001
INVENTOR: Bates et al.
EXAMINER: Ronald Laneau
GROUP ART UNIT: 3627
CONFIRMATION NO.: 6826

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PATENT

Atty. Pkt. No. BOCB20010079151

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:
Bates et al.**

Serial No.: 09/848,572

Confirmation No.: 6826

Filed: May 3, 2001

For: Systems and Methods for Operating Vending Machines

Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Laneau, Ronald

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF FAX
37 CFR 1.8

Dear Sir-

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED APRIL 21, 2005

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 21, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 21, 2005, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

The Claims are listed beginning on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.